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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

1968

Chairman of the Council: Councillor R. Moyle, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. Edwards, C.C.

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor R. Moyle

Chairman of the Housing Committee:
Councillor W. Edwards, C.C.

Councillors:

D. B. S. Angel
Mrs. M. Aston
T. Bennett
W. L. Carnan
Mrs. M. Dodds
J. Forster
H. Fox
R. A. Goad
J. Howe
J. G. Huntington
W. Jackson
K. Newby
W. Nunn
F. Pickering
B. Stephens
R. Smyth
Mrs. L. L. Trotter

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):
E. M. Osborne, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Public Health Inspector:
K. Robson

Deputy Public Health Inspector:
G. R. Sewell

Pupil Public Health Inspector:
A. Horner

Clerical Assistant:
S. Thompson

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for 1968.

Even though the population fell slightly, the number of births was up by 81, giving a Birth Rate of 19 ·04 which is higher than that for England and Wales (16 ·9).

The number of deaths unfortunately has also increased by 19 to 193, giving a rate of 17 ·2 also higher than that for the country (14) but 134 of these were 65 years and over and 81 were 75 years and over.

There were 5 infant deaths under 1 year, the same number as last year but because of the increased birth rate, this gave us a lower Infantile Mortality Rate—19 ·61 (23 ·04 for 1967). This is slightly lower than for the Country (20).

Of these infant deaths, 3 died under 1 week, one of prematurity, one from a congenital abnormality and one due to birth injury. Of the others, one died at 2 months of pneumonia and one at 6 months from a congenital abnormality.

Unfortunately, we again had a maternal death—a woman of 28 who died 2 days after delivery from a pulmonary embolism.

The number of deaths from cancer of all parts of the body was 28—2 fewer than last year. Cancer of the lung or bronchus decreased from 12 to 8.

Deaths due to conditions of the heart and vascular system numbered 68 as against 67 last year. Diabetes caused only 1 death this year and that in a woman of over 65 years.

Pneumonia caused 12 deaths, an increase of 4 and deaths from bronchitis were up 1 this year to 9.

There were 3 deaths from accidents but no suicides.

Again this year, there was one death from tuberculosis and 3 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

The Mass Radiography Unit spent a total of 13 days in Shildon, 5 in public sessions and 8 at the Railway Works. In the 2,100 X-rays carried out, 42 abnormalities were found. 19 persons were referred to the Chest Clinic and 23 to their own doctors. 2 cases of tuberculosis were discovered and 2 of bronchial carcinoma.

Heaf testing of school entrants continues to be carried out for tuberculosis diagnosis and B.C.G. vaccination is given when necessary on entry to Senior Schools.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases showed a rise this year to 220. This was largely made up of measles notifications (190) as the measles outbreak seemed to hit us before we had managed to carry out vaccination with the newly released vaccine. Let us hope that the results of these vaccinations will show their results next year.

The number of cases of scarlet fever continues to fall and also those of whooping cough. There were, however, 16 cases of dysentery notified this year where we had had none the previous year. Even though this does make our figures appear worse, I do welcome the notification of cases of dysentery by general practitioners as then the outbreak may be properly investigated.

Vaccination against smallpox, poliomyelitis and measles, and immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are carried out in Child Welfare Clinics, Schools and General Practitioners' surgeries. The response continues to be good.

Influenza vaccine was given to 38 members of the urban district council staff at the end of the year.

Home Helps were supplied to 196 homes during the year—20 more than last year.

The Meals on Wheels service continues to supply 24 dinners twice a week. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work on the Voluntary Services it was impossible to get the Meals from Neighbours Scheme under way this year but it is hoped that this may be achieved next year.

The Luncheon Clubs continue to operate, being quite social occasions, supplying 20 lunches at the Old Shildon Club on Tuesdays and 20 at the New Shildon Club on Thursdays.

The Red Cross administer the Chiropody Clinics which are staffed by a County Chiropodist. Sessions are held twice weekly, a total of 93 during the year. At these sessions 261 pensioners and one physically handicapped person received a total of 889 treatments.

52 houses were built by the Council with state assistance and 14 by private persons making a total of 66 for the year.

The Warden Service Bungalow Scheme in Rowan Avenue was officially opened during the year and both it and the Garbutt Close one are running very well. We have found that old people are enabled to manage in their own homes much longer this way when they can obtain help and supervision from the warden. Admission to a hostel which always is a sad procedure can thus be postponed in many cases and even eliminated altogether in some.

The Municipalisation of Dustbins and the conversion to the Paper Sack Collection System is continuing on schedule, approximately 65% of the town now uses paper sacks for refuse collection. The total conversion should be completed by Mid-1970.

The Sewage Disposal Works continues to be used as Ministry approval has not yet been received for the piping of effluent to the Aycliffe Disposal Works of Darlington Rural District.

Finally, I should like to thank the Council for their help and understanding since my appointment in August, my staff for their loyalty and hard work and members of all voluntary organisations for their untiring efforts.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figures for the Area at Mid 1968, show the resident population as 13,790, this being a decrease of 30 in comparison with the previous year. The Comparability Factors for Shildon are:—

Births	1.03
Deaths	1.23

Live Births

	Male	Female		
Number	123	132	=	[redacted] 255
Rate per 1,000 population				19.04 Standard.

Illegitimate Live Births (% of total Live Births):

	Male	Female		
Number	17	11	=	28
% of Total Live Births		10.98		

Still Births:

	Male	Female		
Number	4	1	=	5
Total Live and Still births	127	133	=	260

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births = 19.23

Total Live and Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Live	123	132	255
Still Births	4	1	5
Number	127	133	260

Rate per 1,000: 18.86

Infant Mortality Rates (deaths under one year):

3	2	5

Total Infant Deaths:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births: 19.61

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births: 22,03

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births; Nil

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under four weeks combined per 1,000 total live and still births): 11.77

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births): 7.843

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births): 26.93

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of Deaths: 1

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births: 3.85%

Death Rate:

Shildon Area ... ... 17.22 per 1,000 population

England and Wales ... 11.9 „ „

Deaths in Shildon Area, as per Returns to the Medical Officer of Health 96

Deaths of Shildon Residents outside the area ... 97

Infantile Mortality Rate:

The number of Deaths of children under the age of one year is 5, representing an Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 19.61. Of these 5, none occurred in Shildon.

The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales is 18.0 per 1,000 Live Births.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

	Death Rate per 1,000 pop'n	Inf. Mort. Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n
Country Average (England & Wales) ...	11.9	18.0	14.0	16.9
Shildon	17.2	19.61	19.23	19.04

Births in excess of Deaths:

1950	56	1959	74
1951	52	1960	34
1952	58	1961	101
1953	64	1962	104
1954	61	1963	58
1955	27	1964	74
1956	71	1965	102
1957	50	1966	63
1958	98	1967	43
		1968	62

Population Changes:

1955	14,160
1956	14,050
1957	13,960
1958	13,920
1959	13,910
1960	13,920
1961	14,070
1962	14,130
1963	14,020
1964	13,940
1965	13,910
1966	13,890
1967	13,820
1968	13,790

Age Groups of Deaths in Shildon:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	Over 90	Total
1	—	—	—	3	15	21	32	21	3	96

Age Groups of Deaths Outside the Area:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	Over 90	Total
4	—	1	1	6	14	20	35	16	—	97

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Other Tuberculosis, incl. late effects	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	7	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	2
Leukaemia	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	8	11
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—	1
Anaemias	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	3	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2
Hypertensive Disease	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	22	16
Other Forms of Heart Disease	4	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	22
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	6
Pneumonia	3	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	2
Asthma	—	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
Peptic Ulcer...	4	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	2	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1
Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	—
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	—	2
All Other Accidents	3	—
All Other External Causes...	1	—
Total all Causes ...	93	100

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of Cases as notified in the Whole District, set out in age groups (Civilians only)

Infectious Disease	Under 1 yr.	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–61	61 & over	At all ages
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	14	18	29	32	25	68	1	2	1	—	—	—	190
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS:													
1. MALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. FEMALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	2	6	1	—	—	16
	15	22	29	33	25	75	1	7	11	1	1	—	220

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	76	9	85
Females... ...	59	15	74
	135	24	159

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents 1·12% of the population,a decrease of ·02% over the previous year.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1968

Immunisation against Diphtheria:—

209 No. — Primary Injections.
284 No. — Booster Injections.

Whooping Cough:—

132 No. — Primary Injections.
120 No. — Booster Injections.

Tetanus Injections:—

239 No. — Primary Injections.
292 No. — Booster Injections.

Smallpox Vaccinations:—

78 No. — Received Primary courses.
Nil — Re-vaccination.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:—

222 No. — Received Primary injections.
134 No. — Received Booster injections.

Measles:—

282 No. — Received Primary Injections.
Nil — Received Booster doses.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1968—*continued*

B.C.G. Vaccination:—

131 No. — Children were Heaf Tested.
18 No. — Children were Positive.
106 No. — Children were found to be Negative.
102 No. — Children were Vaccinated.

The above figures apply to children attending school in the Shildon Urban District. Other Shildon children will have been vaccinated at schools outside the Urban Area.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Number of cases receiving Home Help at 1.1.1968 ...	144
New cases received during year	52
Total number of cases provided with help during year ...	196
Cases terminated during the year	54
Cases receiving service at 31.12.1968	142

CHIROPODY SERVICE

Number of sessions from 1.1.68—31.12.68	93
Number of treatments	889
Number of aged persons treated	261
Number of physically handicapped persons	1

Sessions held on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening —twice weekly.

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres) including Eldon, Old Eldon, Middridge and Brusselton	4,828
No. of inhabited houses in the District of which 52 were constructed during the year, 22 Condemned/Closed and Demolition Orders served under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. The tenants of such houses demolished being re-housed by this Council	4,792
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,120
Rateable Value	£277,815

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse Collection:

Domestic, Shop and Trade Refuse is collected throughout the area by regular weekly collection provided by the Council. The disposal of the refuse is done by controlled tipping at Sunnydale Tip in a most satisfactory manner.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

Drains and Sewerage:

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner.

Rodent Control:

Private businesses and dwelling houses were treated as and where necessary—a charge being made to properties other than dwelling house property, and complete sewer treatments were carried out during the year. A Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for the purpose of carrying out this work.

The public continue to report promptly to the Council Offices any infestation of rats and mice being found on their property.

No. of premises visited	No. of baits laid
337	2,051

The number of visits made during the year on Rat Infested premises during which treatment was carried out being ... 1,431

Water Supply:

(a) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality for the year.

(b) No contamination of the supply occurred in the Shildon U.D.

(c) The total number of bacteriological samples taken in the Shildon area during 1968 was 28.

(d) There are 4,728 dwelling houses supplied. There are no houses on stand pipes.

(e) Natural fluoride is present in the water from .1 to .45 p.p.m.

(f) So far as is known, no house is without a piped water supply.

Summary of Notices and work done in the Public Health Inspectors Department during the Year ended 1968.

1. Houses erected in area:

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	52	—	52
(b) By any other Local Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	14	14
	52	14	66

2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.

(a) Formal Action:

	No.
(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	40
(ii) No. of houses Closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	9
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	—
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation	—

(b) Informal Action:

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	—

3. Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

		No.
(a)	As a result of informal action	31
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	4
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4.

(a) Water, Food and Drugs:

	No.
Samples of water taken for Analysis (water samples are taken by the Durham County Water Board)	—
No isolated samples were taken by this Council as this is the function of the Durham County Council	—
Seizures of unwholesome food (voluntarily surrendered)	659
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis or found to be adulterated	—
Number of cases of food adulteration reported to this Council	—

(b) Precautions against Infectious Diseases:

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	2
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	—

(c) General:

Number of new houses Erected during the year	52
Number of such houses Occupied during the year	52
Total number of Water Closets in the District ...	5,183
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ...	55

MILK RETAILERS

There are in the District 5 Retail Purveyors who are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Regular samples are taken for testing by the Durham County Council Weights and Measures Department who have reported satisfactory results during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, there are 2 slaughterhouses. The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are each attached to the retail shop for which they are used, and conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the above Act, and have been duly licensed thereunder. All animals slaughtered have been subject to inspection which has amounted to 100%. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in the slaughterhouses throughout the period.

The slaughterhouses have also been inspected by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and have been found satisfactory.

The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are as follows:—

(1) J. N. Percival ... 25, Church Street, Shildon.

(2) J. Studham ... 49, Church Street, Shildon.

The total number of animals inspected during the year being:—

	Animals Slaughtered
Cattle	212
Sheep	493
Pigs	331

HOUSING

(a) The Council's Pre-War and Post-War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows:—

	No. Erected
1919 Act	124
1930-1935 Act:	
North Eastern Housing Association, Newcastle. (Let by this Council)	100

	No. Erected
Post-War Permanent Housing	1,087
Post-War Aged Persons Bungalows	248
Post-War Flats	58
(28 available for Old Aged Persons)	
Communal Centres	2
Warden's Flats	2

(b) Re-Housing:

During the year ended 31st December, 1968, 118 houses were let to the following groups, in accordance with the Council's allocation of houses Scheme:

	No.
Points	80
Individual Unfit Houses...	33
Key Workers	5
	118

(c) The number of dwellings built by the Council during the year was 52, 29 houses in Rosedale Crescent, Jubilee Field Estate, 17 Elm Drive Estate and 6 at Elm Road.

The allocation of Council houses is made on the following grounds:

(1) Clearance.

(2) Points.

together with serious medical cases. Special provisions being made to allocate bungalows to old people within the town itself.

Persons requiring housing accommodation, should complete the Housing Application Form, obtainable at the Council Offices, for inclusion on the following year's Housing List.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing and Bungalow List at 31st December, 1968, were as follows:—

Applications	Type of dwelling required
118	Two and Three bedroom houses.
142	Bungalows.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants).

The following is a summary of applications received under the provisions of the above Act, from January—31st December, 1968:—

(i)	No. of applications received	55
(ii)	No. of applications approved	48
(iii)	No. of applications rejected	4
(iv)	No. of applications withdrawn	3
(v)	No. of improvements completed	52

During the year 1967/1968, the Shildon Accident Prevention Society Team were placed second in the Northumberland and County Durham Cycling Proficiency Championship.

During this period, 85 children were trained in cycling proficiency as follows:

(a)	First year.	57 No.
(b)	Second year.	17 No.
(c)	Third year.	6 No.
(d)	Fourth year.	2 No.
(e)	Fifth year.	3 No.
		85 No.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular visits were paid to the factories in the area and, in general, conditions were found to be good.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. M. OSBORNE,

Medical Officer of Health,
Shildon Urban District Council.

SHAW & SONS LTD., SHAWAY HOUSE, LONDON, S.E.26.